CGHS Smart Cards

1630. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

whether the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) has decided to replace all the existing cards issued to those covered by the scheme with smart cards;

if so, whether the job has been entrusted to a private company;

the details of the arrangement made by when new cards are likely to be issued and the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon; and

whether it would be ensured that the level of health care and other facilities now available to those covered by the scheme would not be altered to their detriment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) It is proposed to issue individual plastic cards to each family member of CGHS beneficiaries, initially in Delhi.

Preparation of individual cards shall be done through National Informatics Centre Services Incorporated (NICSI), a subsidiary of National Informatics Centre (NIC).

Applications are to be submitted at the dispensaries by the CGHS beneficiaries. Last date of receipt of applications is 31st March, 2008. After the data is updated, preparation of plastic cards dispensary-wise shall start. It is expected that it will take 6 months to complete the job. The estimated expenditure for individual plastic card is Rs. 10/- per card.

All facilities as available at present shall continue to be available after issue of individual cards.

Draft for urban health care

1631. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

whether a draft of the strategies for urban health care submitted in May, 2006 continues to remain just a draft;

whether strategy for urban health despite the fact that health indices for the urban poor have been consistently bad and becoming worse over the years and in some cases even worse than those of rural India;

whether nearly 57 per cent of the children under three years age among the urban poor are mal-nourished while in rural area the proportion is less than half; and

the main reasons for delay in accepting the proposals and final decision to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) No, Sir.

The National Urban Health Mission which would address health care in urban areas with special focus on urban slum population is under active consideration of the Ministry. The proposed strategies takes cognizance of the recommendations of the above referred Task Force.